

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

March 20, 2006

2:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, March 20, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the Roanoke City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 37109-070505 adopted by the Council on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

PRESENT: Council Members Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, and Mayor C. Nelson Harris -----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

DECEASED PERSONS: Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution memorializing the late Harold F. "Harry" Burnup, husband of Linda F. Wyatt, former Council Member, who passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2006:

(#37325-032006) A RESOLUTION memorializing the late Harold Franklin Burnup, Jr., husband of former City Council Member Linda F. Wyatt.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 176.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37325-032006. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

The Mayor called for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Burnup and presented a ceremonial copy of the above referenced resolution to his wife, Ms. Wyatt.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. He called specific attention to three requests for Closed Session to discuss vacancies on certain Council appointed boards and commissions; and two matters with regard to disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, February 6, 2006, were before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the Mayor’s request as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Minutes of a meeting of the Audit Committee which was held on Monday, December 19, 2005, were before Council.

The following items were considered by the Audit Committee:

- FINANCIAL KPMG AUDIT REPORTS – JUNE 30, 2005:
 - Report to the Audit Committee of City Council
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Auditors’ Opinion
- Management Letter – Management Response
 - Management Response
- Pension Plan Report to the Board of Trustees
- Pension Plan – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the minutes be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

BONDS/BOND ISSUES-ARMORY/STADIUM-LIBRARIES: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to appropriate certain remaining bond funds into a capital account for the purpose of renovating or constructing new library facilities in the City, was before the body.

The Mayor advised that with the decision of Council to construct stadia at the City's two high schools (\$4.1 million has been appropriated for the stadium at Patrick Henry High School and \$4.1 million is reserved for a stadium at William Fleming High School), \$5,590,000.00 in bond funds remain in the stadium/amphitheater account which can be reallocated to a capital account for renovation or construction of new library facilities; and the Code of Virginia requires a public hearing whenever excess funds are reallocated. The Mayor asked that Council act favorably on the request to schedule a public hearing.

Council Member Cutler moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor and that a public hearing be held on Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

Joyce Waugh, Vice President, Public Policy, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, advised that the 1,400 members of the Chamber of Commerce support the recommendation outlined in the Roanoke Library Comprehensive Study and encourage action on the first phase of the library study.

She advised that the Library Study makes several points:

- Transactions, program attendance, and collection turnover rates are declining.
- Attention must be made to correct striking deficiencies, including customer service (retail model) and creating a welcoming atmosphere.
- Libraries are an integral part of their communities.
- To have top tier libraries, investments are needed.
- Quality of life issues continue to weigh more heavily in the decision-making process of employers and employees.

Ms. Waugh stated that the Roanoke Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce supports a regional library system, and although it does not appear that this will happen in the near future, investments in the Roanoke City Library system will enhance the entire valley-wide system; therefore, the Chamber of Commerce supports these investments.

The above referenced motion was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: Council Members Lea and Wishneff -----2.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Phillip F. Sparks, Executive Director, Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership, presented the 2005 Annual Budget.

Mr. Sparks advised that the Partnership's industrial park brochure was updated to feature industrial parks throughout the nine jurisdictions served by the Economic Development Partnership, by showing signs leading into the entrance of the park, or buildings and/or properties within the park, which created a better brochure for clients served by the Partnership; and City properties were posted on the Partnership's website, the Commonwealth of Virginia's website, and *Area Development* Magazine's website, resulting in 189 hits alone on eight different properties located in the City of Roanoke on the *Area Development* Magazine website. He added that Carilion Biomedical Institute and City of Roanoke biomedical efforts were featured in *Expansion* Magazine articles, and media writers were invited to tour the greater region in the hopes that articles will be included in national publications with regard to the Roanoke Valley; and numerous prospects have visited the Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology where the City created level sites at the end of the industrial park with utilities and a roadway to help promote the site. He advised that in 2004-2005, the Economic Development Partnership worked on \$77.2 million in new announced investments, was instrumental in establishing 322 new jobs, participated in three local business expansions and one new business; and since inception of the Partnership in 1983, \$1 billion in new investments has been announced, including direct investments in equipment and buildings.

In other news, Mr. Sparks stated that Alleghany County and the Town of Covington have joined the Partnership as voting members; initially, the Partnership started out with five governments, two were added in 1991-92, followed by an additional two localities; the Partnership, along with the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County and their respective Economic Development Departments were recognized as one of the first 30 Partnerships to be certified by the International - Economic Development Council; approximately 18,000 economic development organizations in the United States currently compete for approximately 1,000 projects; and the Roanoke Valley is ranked near the top in *Expansion* magazine cities. He called attention to the Partnership's strong marketing program, with approximately \$80,000.00 annually invested in advertising, the primary purpose of which is to direct persons to the Partnership's website; staff of the Economic Development Partnership continues to participate in trade shows and in marketing missions with potential businesses; and a Targeted Industry Sector Campaign was implemented this year in which Partnership staff looks at companies that have

made capital investments, or engaged in land acquisitions, or hired a new President, etc., and arranges telephone conference calls with those companies to determine their level of interest in the Roanoke Valley. He stated that a measurable goal in 2006 with regard to public relations included 34 published articles, three articles concerning the greater Roanoke region were published in national publications, 36 advertisements were included in various publications, 56,000 website hits involving over 100,000 website pages, eight trade shows were worked, seven marketing missions were conducted, 12 conference calls were placed, 31 editorial placements, and 31 prospect files were opened. He advised that proposals have been submitted to ten prospective businesses on behalf of various governments throughout the Roanoke Valley region, with potential jobs ranging from 964 to 1,284 and a potential investment of from \$102 million to \$167 million, and 13 businesses are actively considering the greater Roanoke Valley region, which could generate 1,154 to 1,409 jobs, or a potential investment of \$146 to \$160 million.

When talking with potential businesses, Council Member Dowe inquired as to what they perceive to be Roanoke's major challenges; whereupon, Mr. Sparks advised that the major challenges are a trainable work force and the lack of available land.

Mr. Sparks was asked to define "trainable workforce"; whereupon, he advised that "trainable workforce" includes the basic skills of reading, writing, mathematics, personal hygiene, communications, etc.

Question was raised with regard to what Roanoke's school system and the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board is doing to improve basic skills to achieve a trainable workforce.

The City Manager advised that one of the specific reasons that County Administrators and City Managers of the various Roanoke Valley jurisdictions were asked to serve in the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO) role on the Workforce Development Board was to bring more work force related issues to bear on economic development and regional initiatives, and meetings of CLEO are scheduled in conjunction with Regional Economic Development Partnership meetings. She called attention to concerns that many of the basics of education are not taught as a part of the school curriculum, therefore, the City attempts to determine training needs in advance of an intended expansion of a business, by identifying potential employees in advance of hiring and training those persons in the basic skills so that by the time jobs are actually posted, employees are prepared to enter the workforce. She added that the Roanoke Valley's unemployment rate is somewhat of a draw back because those persons who are employable are already in the work force, and there is an ongoing effort to include community colleges.

Council Member Cutler inquired about the Regional Industrial Park in Pulaski, County; whereupon, Mr. Sparks advised that a group of 15 governments throughout Southwestern Virginia came together to form Virginia's First Industrial Facility Authority, in order to incur debt and to receive the benefits of potential businesses.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that Commerce Park in Pulaski County is the only industrial park in the Commonwealth of Virginia where governments share revenues by contract; and the industrial park allows counties to have other localities provide funds to create infrastructure that some counties could not otherwise afford, and then allows the individual communities to draw funds based on their investment in the industrial park.

Secondly, he stated that there is an unfavorable work force development situation in the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, with various organizations engaging in work force development at a cost of \$8.5 million, the organizations rarely work together and some teach skills that are no longer applicable to jobs that are being performed in the region, therefore, it is an issue that needs to be addressed if the Regional Partnership is to succeed. He stated that available land and work force skills are considered to be two of the most important factors when potential businesses look at an area as a place to locate and the greater Roanoke region is not as prepared as it needs to be. He added that the Roanoke Valley's low unemployment rate prevents many potential businesses from looking at the region because there is a perception that there is no available work force. He stated that there should be one Metropolitan Statistical Area instead of three, which would provide a better opportunity for the Regional Economic Development Partnership to sell the greater region.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick expressed appreciation for the work of the Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership and advised that an annual budget of \$870,000.00 is not sufficient to market the greater Roanoke region and to adequately address the creation of more jobs.

Council Member Wishneff spoke in support of upgrading the Regional Partnership's website, which is a tool that is widely used by site location consultants throughout the country; whereupon, Mr. Sparks advised that funds for a website upgrade will be included in the 2007 fiscal year budget.

Mr. Sparks expressed appreciation to the City Manager for her support of the Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

BUDGET-HOUSING/AUTHORITY-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the plight of homeless individuals and families has been at the forefront of the community's attention for more than a decade; the number of homeless persons relying on local services has increased; and the 2005 winter survey conducted by the Roanoke Valley Task Force on Homelessness indicated that the nightly average of homeless persons during the survey period was 397.

It was further advised that based on Roanoke's 2005 Continuum of Care application, the Roanoke Homeless Assistance Team ("HAT") Renewal was awarded a supportive services only grant totaling \$137,669.00 for a one year period beginning February 1, 2006; and a local cash match of \$34,417.00 is required, for a total program budget of \$172,086.00.

It was explained that the HAT office is located at 310 Campbell Avenue, S. W., and provides for convenient access to the program; HAT staff maintains office hours from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon, after which time street outreach is conducted to shelters and other places not designed for human habitation; and staff provides limited case management, including agency referrals, security deposits, food, transportation and prescription assistance.

It was stated that a local cash match of \$34,417.00 is required for acceptance of the grant; and funds are available from Local Cash Match Funding for Grants, Account No. 035-300-9700-5415.

The City Manager recommended that Council take the following actions:

- Authorize the City Manager to accept the Roanoke Homeless Assistance Team Renewal Grant Award, in the amount of \$137,669.00, from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and execute the required grant documents on behalf of the City;

- Authorize the City Manager to execute documents associated with implementation of grant renewal;
- Adopt a budget ordinance to establish a revenue estimate in the amount of \$137,669.00, transfer funds in the amount of \$34,417.00 from Local Cash Match Funding for Grants, Account No. 035-300-9700-5415, and appropriate funds totaling \$172,086.00 to expenditure accounts to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant fund.

Council Member Cutler offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37327-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Homeless Assistance Team Grant, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 177.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37326-032006. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37327-032006) A RESOLUTION authorizing acceptance of the Roanoke Homeless Assistance Team Renewal Grant Award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide outreach and limited case management services to the homeless; and authorizing the execution of the necessary documents.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 178.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37327-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0

BUDGET-HOUSING/AUTHORITY-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Roanoke entered into the Shelter Plus Care (SPC) agreement in 1995 for a five year grant period; and in December 2000, the agreement was extended for an additional five year period.

It was further advised that permanent supportive housing continues to be identified as a top priority for the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care and the Roanoke Regional Task Force on Homelessness; the program provides rental assistance and supportive services to 21 disabled, homeless individuals and their families; disabilities are defined as serious mental illness, chronic substance abuse, AIDS or related diseases and physical disabilities; and the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority worked cooperatively with eight local community agencies to develop and submit a proposal for funding.

It was explained that a Shelter Plus Care grant allocation of \$136,716.00 was awarded to the City of Roanoke for a one year period; and a local in-kind match of supportive services is required and has been committed to by the following agencies: Salem Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, City of Roanoke Department of Social Services, Total Action Against Poverty, Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, City of Roanoke Health Department, East-Hornback Services (EHS) and the Roanoke Aids Project.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to accept the Shelter Plus Care Renewal Grant Award, in the amount of \$136,716.00, from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to execute the required grant documents on behalf of the City; and that Council adopt a budget ordinance to establish a revenue estimate, in the amount of \$136,716.00, and appropriate funding in the same amount to an account to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant Fund.

Council Member Cutler offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37328-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Shelter Plus Care Grant, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 179.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37328-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37329-032006) A RESOLUTION authorizing acceptance of the Shelter Plus Care Grant Award from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$136,716.00 for a one-year period, to provide rental assistance and supportive services to disabled homeless individuals; and authorizing the execution of the necessary documents.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 180.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37329-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-GRANTS-YOUTH-JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Department of Criminal Justice Services notified the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County of an allocation of funds under the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG); an allocation of \$40,581.00 in Federal funds was awarded jointly to the two jurisdictions; and a joint local match of \$4,509.00 is required.

It was further advised that the allocation formula provides for \$28,339.00 Federal and \$3,149.00 cash match from the City of Roanoke and \$12,242.00 Federal and \$1,360.00 cash match from Roanoke County; staff from both jurisdictions have met and developed program proposals for use of the funding; Roanoke County will provide a substance abuse intervention education program through the schools; the City of Roanoke, in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club and Total Action Against Poverty, will provide services to students suspended, or otherwise absent from school during the day; TAP-Project Recovery will help adjudicated youth avoid the negative risks and unproductive lifestyles that often correlate with dropping out of school; funding for the City's match of \$3,149.00 is available in Account No. 001-630-1270-2010, Human Services Support; and the City of Roanoke will serve as fiscal agent for the funds.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to accept the \$40,581.00 JABG grant allocated to the City of Roanoke for \$28,339.00 and to Roanoke County for \$12,242.00 and execute an agreement with the Department of Criminal Justice Services for said funds; that Council adopt a budget ordinance establishing revenue estimates totaling \$45,090.00; and appropriate funds in the same amount to an expenditure account to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant Fund and transfer \$3,149.00 from Human Services Support, Account No. 001-630-1270-2010, to the Grant Fund account.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37330-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate local match funding and funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General and Grant Funds Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 181.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37330-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

Council Member Wishneff inquired if school age children who are observed off campus during school hours are questioned by the Police Department; whereupon, the City Manager advised that she would respond to the question later during the meeting. (See page 303 for the City Manager's response.)

Ordinance No. 37328-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37331-032006) A RESOLUTION authorizing acceptance of a Juvenile Accountability Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services on behalf of the City, and authorizing execution of any and all necessary documents to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant and applicable laws, regulations, and requirements pertaining thereto.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 182.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37331-032006. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of \$41,278.00 for the Learn and Serve K-12 Virginia program, to provide hands-on education and career development for students at William Fleming High School and Taylor Learning Academy, said continuing program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by Federal funds, was before Council.

A report of the Director of Finance recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board, was also before the body.

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37332-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Federal Government for the Learn and Serve K-12 Virginia program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 School Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 183.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37332-032006. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: A communication from the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of \$3,370.00 from the School Food Services Unappropriated Fund Balance to fund school-based furniture, and the remaining \$100,000.00 balance of the School Food Services Unappropriated Fund Balance should be transferred to reserves for Workers' Compensation in the School Operating Fund (\$50,000.00) and the School Food Services Fund (\$50,000.00), was before Council.

A report of the Director of Finance recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board, was also before the body.

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37333-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the School Food Services Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 School and School Food Services Funds Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 184.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37333-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler.

Council Member Cutler spoke in support of joint purchasing by the Roanoke City School System and the City of Roanoke, in order to take advantage of economies of scale associated with joint purchasing.

Ordinance No. 37333-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:
NONE.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CELEBRATIONS: Council Member Cutler congratulated organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which was held on Saturday, March 18, 2006.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Council Member Cutler complimented Greene Memorial United Methodist Church on the SINFONIA, Music of Johann Sebastian Bach, featuring Dr. Joan Lippincott, organist with The New York Bach Ensemble, which was held on Sunday, March 19, 2006.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES: Council Member Dowe advised that over the next two weeks, the National Basketball Association (NBA) will make certain decisions with regard to the Roanoke Valley and the future of the Roanoke Dazzle basketball team; therefore, he asked that the citizens of Roanoke support the Roanoke Dazzle through the purchase and renewal of season tickets. He stated that if the Roanoke area does not support existing sports teams and programs it will be difficult to attract other potential sporting activities to the area. He advised that Roanoke was selected by the NBA for a basketball franchise largely due to the existing quality of life in the Roanoke Valley, and other localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia who are interested in a franchise are anxiously waiting the decision of the NBA with regard to the future of the Roanoke franchise. He urged citizens of the Roanoke Valley to support the Roanoke Dazzle basketball team.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT-CITY EMPLOYEES: Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick commended City employees who participated in the City's Second Annual Talent Show, which was held on Friday, March 17, 2006, in the Performing Arts Theatre at the Roanoke Civic Center.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT-CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Harris commended Council Member and Mrs. M. Rupert Cutler on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on Thursday, March 23, 2006.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

ARMORY/STADIUM-COUNCIL-COMPLAINTS: Mr. John E. Kepley, 2909 Morrison Street, S. E., urged the citizens of Roanoke to read various e-mails that were obtained through the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which were written by certain City Council Members and School Board Members with regard to high school stadia, Victory Stadium, and other City related issues.

He compared four specific Members of the Council to a story in the Bible regarding two brothers, Jacob and Esau, and advised that he prays that each Member of the Roanoke City Council will have an encounter with the living God so that the citizens of Roanoke will know the truth behind the individual decisions of City Council Members.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

SCHOOLS-COUNCIL: The City Manager responded to a question raised by Council Member Wishneff earlier in the meeting with regard to whether police officers stop school age children who are observed on the streets during school hours. She stated that a police officer will stop the child to ask the appropriate questions and follow up with the School Resource Officer (SRO) at the child's school, the SRO will return the student to school if he or she does not have permission to leave the school campus, and if the student's explanation as to why they are off the school campus appears to be legitimate, the police officer will not detain the student.

CITY MARKET: The City Manager advised that March 19, 2006, marked the first occasion that the City Market was open for business on a Sunday, and encouraged citizens of Roanoke to support future Sunday shopping/activities on the City Market.

At 3:10 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for three Closed Sessions.

At 4:05 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, Mayor Harris presiding.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HOTEL ROANOKE CONFERENCE CENTER: The Mayor advised that the four year term of office of Darlene L. Burcham as a Commissioner of The Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission, will expire on April 12, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Darlene L. Burcham.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Burcham was reappointed as a Commissioner of The Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission, for a term ending April 12, 2010, by the following vote:

FOR MS. BURCHAM: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HOUSING/AUTHORITY: The Mayor advised that the four year term of office of Tuan Reynolds as a member of the Fair Housing Board will expire on March 31, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Tuan Reynolds.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Reynolds was reappointed as a member of the Fair Housing Board, for a term ending March 31, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MR. REYNOLDS: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-PARKS AND RECREATION-COMMITTEES: The Mayor advised that the four year term of office of Mary F. Monk as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will expire on March 31, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Mary F. Monk.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Monk was reappointed as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for a term ending March 31, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. MONK: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-COMMITTEES: The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the Human Services Advisory Board, for a term ending November 30, 2008, due to the passing of Corinne B. Gott; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Quentin J. White.

There being no further nominations, Mr. White was appointed as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Corinne B. Gott, deceased, ending November 30, 2008, by the following vote:

FOR MR. WHITE: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Mayor Harris-----7.

At 4:10 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess to be reconvened at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

At 7:00 p.m., on Monday, March 20, 2006, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----7.

ABSENT: -----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney, Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Council Member Sherman P. Lea.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Cub Scout Pack #2, Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ZONING: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of Carilion Medical Center, CHS, Inc., and B & B Holdings, LLC, to establish a Comprehensive Sign Overlay District to properties in or near the Reserve Avenue, S. W. area, more specifically identified as Official Tax Nos. 1032203, 1032209, 1032208, 1032207, 1032106, 1032005, 1032002, 1032001, 1031902, 1032201, 1032105, 1032104, 1032103, 1032102, 1032101 and 1032006, such District to include regulations pertaining to size, location, height, materials, landscaping, text, color, calculation of sign area, and illumination of certain proposed signs on the subject property, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Wednesday March 8, 2006, and Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that at its meeting on December 20, 2004, Council rezoned the subject properties from HM, Heavy Manufacturing District, and C-1, Office District, to INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District; and the petitioner now requests that the City establish a Comprehensive Sign Overlay District.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council approve the request, and advised that the Planning Commission finds that the proposed Riverside Center Comprehensive Sign Overlay District is consistent with design guidelines of the Redevelopment Plan of the South Jefferson Redevelopment Area, is compatible with Vision 2001-2020, and fulfills Comprehensive Sign Overlay District Standards.

Council Member Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#37334-032006) AN ORDINANCE to amend §36.2-100, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and the Official Zoning Map, City of Roanoke, Virginia, dated December 5, 2005, as amended, to establish a comprehensive sign overlay district within the City of Roanoke to be known as the Riverside Center Comprehensive Sign Overlay District; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 186.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37334-032006. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick.

Robert P. Mannelta, Attorney, appeared before Council in support of the request of his clients.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the request. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37334-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ZONING: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of Crawford Development Company, LLC, to repeal and replace proffered conditions on property located at 3806 Thirlane Road, N. W., Official Tax No. 6520105, such new proffers relating to the design and materials of structures proposed to be built on the subject property, proposed possible uses to be placed on the property, and proposed vegetative buffer for the subject property, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, and Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that at its meeting on October 2, 2000, pursuant to Ordinance No. 35071-100200, Council rezoned the subject property from RA, Residential-Agricultural District, to LM, Light Manufacturing District, with certain proffered conditions; pursuant to Ordinance No. 37025-041805 adopted by the Council on April 18, 2005, Council amended proffered conditions to extend the timeframe in which the petitioner was required to obtain permanent Certificates of Occupancy; and on December 5, 2005, Council rezoned the property from LM, Light Manufacturing District, to I-L, Light Industrial District, as part of a comprehensive rezoning of the City; however, existing proffered conditions remained in force.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council approve the Second Amended Petition to Amend Proffered Conditions, which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and uses permitted in the I-1, Light Industrial District.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#37335-032006) AN ORDINANCE to amend §36.2-100, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and the Official Zoning Map, City of Roanoke, Virginia, dated December 5, 2005, as amended, by amending the conditions presently binding upon certain property conditionally zoned I-1, Light Industrial District; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 188.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37335-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

George I. Vogel, III, Attorney, appeared before Council in support of the request of his client.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the request. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37335-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

FLOOD REDUCTION/CONTROL-CITY PROPERTY-APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY:- Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the proposal of the City of Roanoke to convey a 40-foot by 410-foot wide easement to Appalachian Power Company across City-owned property located adjacent to Riverview Boulevard and Arbor Avenue, S. E., for the purpose of relocating and installing new facilities, in connection with the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Project, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, March 10, 2006.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Appalachian Power Company has requested a variable width easement approximately 40' x 410' across City-owned property, identified as Official Tax Nos. 4150101R and 4150501R, which is located along the Roanoke River near the intersection of Willow Street and Riverview Boulevard; the easement is needed to relocate an existing overhead power line and related facilities; and facilities are being relocated in connection with the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Project.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute the appropriate documents granting an above-ground utility easement as abovedescribed to Appalachian Power Company, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#37336-032006) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the conveyance of an easement of an approximate width of 40 feet and an approximate length of 410 feet across City-owned property identified by Official Tax Map Nos. 4150101R and 4150501R, located adjacent to Riverview Boulevard, S. E., and Arbor Avenue, S. E., to Appalachian Power Company, to relocate and install new facilities, in connection with the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Project, upon certain terms and conditions; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 190.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37336-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37336-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-FLEET MANAGEMENT FUND: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, March 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the proposal of the City of Roanoke to adjust the aggregate amount of the City's Fiscal Year 2005-2006 General Fund budget, in connection with appropriation of additional funds for Social Service/Human Service programs, not to exceed \$3,100,000.00; and a proposal to adjust the aggregate amount of the City's Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Fleet Management Fund budget, in connection with appropriation of additional funds for Motor Fuels and Vehicle Parts/Supplies, not to exceed \$500,000.00, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Saturday, March 11, 2006.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Department of Social Services has experienced an increase in demand for the following services over the past year: Fuel Assistance, Emergency Assistance for Needy Families, Auxiliary Grant, General Relief, Refugee Resettlement, Foster Care, Special Needs Adoption, Adoption Incentive, Respite Services, Subsidized Adoption, Daycare Services, and Purchased Services; some of the programs are mandated by the State; and Fuel Assistance, Auxiliary Grant, General Relief, and Daycare Services programs require local funds.

It was further advised that the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), which was established in 1993, provides out-of-home services to troubled and at-risk youth and their families through a collaborative system of State and local agencies, parents, and private sector providers; services include mandated foster care, certain special education services, and foster care prevention; and CSA also provides services to certain targeted non-mandated populations.

It was explained that Department of Social Services expenditures are projected at \$10,045,059.00 for the following programs: Fuel Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Auxiliary Grant, General Relief, Refugee Resettlement, Foster Care, Special Needs Adoption, Adoption Incentive, Respite Services, Subsidized Adoption, Daycare Services, and Purchased Services; based on the projection, expenditures will exceed the fiscal year 2006 appropriation of \$8,152,848.00 by \$1,892,211.00; within the category of Social Services expenditures, Fuel Assistance, Auxiliary Grant, General Relief, and Daycare programs are expected to total \$875,000.00 and will require a local match of \$117,275.00; funding anticipated from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the programs is \$1,774,936.00; and the number of citizens requiring assistance and the cost of providing services continues to increase.

It was further explained that CSA expenditures are projected at \$10,650,000.00 for fiscal year 2006; based on the projection, expenditures will exceed the CSA fiscal year 2006 appropriation of \$9,152,256.00 by \$1,497,744.00 and require additional local funds in the amount of \$460,107.00; additional local funding will come from an increase in CSA service billings to the school division in the amount of \$295,192.00 for the schools' share of the cost, with the remaining \$164,915.00 from General Fund Salary Lapse; funding anticipated from the Commonwealth of Virginia for CSA is \$1,037,637.00; additional funds are to be allocated to mandated services for at-risk youth; and CSA has experienced an increase in the number of youths requiring higher cost services.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a budget ordinance to increase General Fund revenue estimates by \$1,774,936.00 for Social Services and \$1,332,829.00 for the Comprehensive Services Act, to transfer \$282,190.00 from General Fund Salary Lapse, and to appropriate \$1,892,211.00 for Social Services, and \$1,497,744.00 for the Comprehensive Services Act.

Council Member Cutler offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37337-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate additional funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Department of Social Services and Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 191.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37337-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37337-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

The City Manager submitted an additional communication advising that as a result of an increase in the cost of motor fuels, expenditures will exceed budget in the amount of \$296,800.00; and General Fund motor fuel expenditures will total \$283,600.00 of this amount; the remaining \$13,200.00 will be billed to the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, the Roanoke Valley Detention Commission, the Civic Center Fund and the Department of Technology Fund; and it is anticipated that expenses for parts required for vehicle repairs will exceed budget, in the amount of \$169,500.00, due to higher than anticipated costs for repair of Solid Waste and Fire-EMS vehicles and an increase in the cost of specialized tires for Police vehicles.

It was further advised that Fleet Management Fund revenue and expense budgets will need to be adjusted, and funding will need to be allocated in the General Fund to cover its share of billings; and expenditures for the remaining \$13,200.00 must be absorbed by the respective agencies or Funds.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a budget ordinance increasing the revenue estimate for Fleet Management Billings for Motor Fuels, Account No. 017-110-1234-1279, by \$296,800.00 and Billings to General Fund, Account No. 017-110-1234-0952, for vehicle repairs/parts by \$169,500.00; appropriating \$296,800.00 to Fleet Management Motor Fuels, Account No. 017-440-2641-3013, and \$169,500.00 to Project Supplies, Account No. 017-440-2641-3005; transferring \$168,611.00 from Motor Fuels Contingency, Account No. 001-300-9410-3012, and \$284,489.00 from Unallocated Life Insurance Premium Savings, Account No. 001-250-9110-1130, to General Fund department motor fuels accounts and parts accounts.

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37338-032006) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the General Fund Motor Fuel Contingency and Life Insurance Premium accounts to various department motor fuel and parts accounts and to increase the motor fuel and parts revenue and expenditure budgets in the Fleet Management Fund, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General and Fleet Management Funds Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 192.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37338-032006. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the matter, to which no person asked to be heard.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37338-032006 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

CITY PROPERTY-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-COMPLAINTS-(COUNTRYSIDE): The following persons spoke with regard to Countryside Golf Course:

Ms. Valerie Garner, 2264 Maitaponi Drive, N. W., advised that she made a detailed presentation before Council on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, with regard to Countryside Golf Course; however, it appears that portions of her presentation were irrelevant due to withdrawal by the proposed developer. She stated that the letter of withdrawal from Toll Brothers, developer, was dated February 16, 2006, therefore, the City had ample time to advise her of the withdrawal prior to February 21 so that her presentation to Council could be modified accordingly. She speculated that withdrawal of the proposal by the developer could have been due to the appointment of a new project manager whose evaluation of the Countryside property was different from his predecessor, or because a residential building in an Airport approach area is not a viable option, or because total acreage is not 140 acres, but less than 100 acres if the runway protection zone is eliminated, or because the area which is included in the 65 decimal noise contour is discouraged by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for use as residential housing or for use with a high concentration of people. She added that the FAA and the Virginia Department of Aviation have specifically stated that a golf course is a good use of the property. She advised that a suggestion offered by Council Member Cutler to maintain the runway protection zone portion of the property as a bird sanctuary sounds like a good idea, however, it would not be acceptable to the FAA due to potential conflict with aircraft. She asked that the Countryside property continue to be used as a golf course.

Mr. Rick Ferguson, 2261 Maitaponi Drive, N. W., spoke on behalf of the Countryside Neighborhood Alliance, and requested that Countryside Golf Course continue to be used as a golf course. He stated that not enough consideration has been given to the advantages of maintaining a golf course; a plus is Interstate 81 which extends both north and south, and as business people, vacationers, and others pass through Roanoke, they see hotels, a golf course, and an airport for air travelers. He further stated that Countryside is the only golf course in the northwest City area that is semi private, which means that anyone can play on the course and pay a nominal cost for green fees. He added that the City's high schools could sponsor golf teams, or churches and non-profit organizations could hold golf tournaments as fund raising events; and with proper management, the golf course could be beneficial to northwest Roanoke, including possibilities for other recreational amenities such as swimming, tennis, and youth training in various sports, etc. He stated that he purchased his patio home without any thought that the golf course would be destroyed, nothing could be constructed at Countryside that would ever be equal in value to a golf course, and without the golf course, there is nothing to attract people to the area due to noise from the Airport and added congestion created by additional homes, traffic and chaos. He advised that if the golf course is no longer available, property values will decline; therefore, property owners expect to be compensated by the City for the loss of value of their homes due to the proposed development.

Ms. Lee Savigny, 2409 Lincoln Avenue, S. W., spoke with regard to maintenance and the physical condition of Countryside Tennis Court which was leased to a private operator by the City. She stated that in the event the property is sold, it is requested that it be sold to the individual who is currently operating the tennis court which will allow the Countryside Tennis Club to make the necessary improvements.

Mr. A. Byron Smith, 2710 Cheraw Lake Road, N. W., spoke with regard to the need for improvements to narrow City streets leading into the area of the Countryside Golf Course, as well as traffic congestion. He stated that the golf course is a plus to the City of Roanoke and to those persons who reside in the area.

Ms. Sarah Higgins, 2267 Countryside Road, N. W., advised that northwest Roanoke is growing, and Countryside should continue to be maintained as an 18 hole golf course, while continuing to offer adult recreation for the citizens of the northwest City and the City of Roanoke as a whole at a reasonable price. She stated that the swimming pools should be drained, repaired and reopened, the indoor tennis courts, which are operating as a separate business from the golf course, should also be kept open and properly maintained; and Countryside should be preserved as a recreational area for the citizens of Roanoke.

COMPLAINTS: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that the Countryside Neighborhood Alliance is rightfully concerned about their neighborhood, as well as residents of Raleigh Court due to the proposed athletic field at Patrick Henry High School. She stated that residents of northeast and northwest Roanoke are concerned about policies of the current City administration, and referred to turmoil, stress, unrest, distrust and anger among most City employees and some citizens, all of whom reside in a City that is slowly burning and loosing its very soul. She called attention to numerous out of state appointments to high level administrative positions under the three year administration of the current City Manager, and advised that Roanoke has lost some of its best home grown, knowledgeable, and qualified employees under the current City Manager's administration in which many dedicated City employees have voluntarily resigned, or were forced to retire.

She called attention to the leadership of the late Mayor Noel C. Taylor who treated citizens with respect and was beloved by citizens throughout the Roanoke Valley; and expressed concern with regard to the Council's unwillingness to appoint Wendy Jones, who received the next highest number of votes cast in the May 2004 Councilmanic election, to fill the unexpired term of Council Member C. Nelson Harris upon his election as Mayor. She stressed the importance of citizens of Roanoke who must become watchful and active to ensure that the City of Roanoke will remain a good place to live, work and play, and asked that the Members of Council display characteristics of leadership, respect, fairness and trust.

Mr. Chris Craft, 1501 East Gate Avenue, N. E., expressed concern with regard to the Mayor's proposal to appropriate remaining bond funds from Victory Stadium renovations to renovation or construction of new library facilities; the removal of grass in the median between 13th Street and the Roanoke County line; and blocking of streets in downtown Roanoke on Saturday, March 18, 2006, for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He referred to the leadership of the late Mayor Noel C. Taylor who treated all citizens with respect and advised that Mayor Taylor would not support any action to demolish Victory Stadium. He suggested that the present Council be replaced with Council Members who will live up to Mayor Taylor's vision for the City of Roanoke.

Mr. Robert E. Gravely, 727 29th Street, N. W., advised that the City of Roanoke's biggest commodity is its work force, and if the City's work force continues to be downgraded, the City will lose its biggest shareholder. He stated that Roanoke's pay scale for City employees is inadequate, with some employees who live below the poverty level; there is a lack of diversity in the City's work force; the City's infrastructure is not properly maintained; Roanoke is not a safe place to live; the City is spending money that it does not have by shifting funds from one account to another; and downtown Roanoke does not offer enough activities to attract visitors to the area.

At 7:50 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for a continuation of the Closed Session.

At 8:05 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Council Member Dowe moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor
